

## Garden State Region News-February 21, 2025



**STAND  
WITH  
ISRAEL**

### Sweet As Can Bee



WL Week

Visit GSR Website

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[Click on the Calendar icon for 2024-2025 GSR Calendar](#)  
All times listed are Eastern Time



### MESSAGE FROM SHEILA KAUFMAN, GSR PRESIDENT

Dear Traci,

Shalom!

February has a bunch of notable days in it... Groundhog Day, Valentines' Day, Lincoln's Birthday, and George Washington's Birthday. This year, Presidents' Day was Monday, the 17th, it is also Random Act of Kindness Day. I am not going to be political, but this year I prefer to celebrate

the latter. My husband and I went down to visit my mother and celebrated her birthday two weeks later as she was sick during that time. We spent the day together and took her out to lunch and came home to have a cake that I made. She could not stop eating it. I know that might not be random, but she needed the company and my husband kept her laughing.

Doing kind acts should not be left to a one day thing but whenever and wherever you see it. It does not take planning, but just a matter of acting! As the slogan says, "Just Do It!" It will make you feel good and so will the receiver! So February does have "heart" in many ways and everyday!



Please send in your sisterhood program flyers that you want to invite others to as well as a couple of photos from your programs to [Traci Sachs](#) and myself for inclusion in our Newsletters and it will be forwarded to be included on our website. If you noticed, we are sending an eblast of programs during the week between Newsletters. So take advantage of us and our outreach. If you have a program please invite myself and Sindy Manas, if it is a Torah Fund program, we would love to come!

May the hostages continue to come home to their loved ones.

I am thrilled to say that the Region will once again have our Women of Achievement Gala Event on Monday, June 9 at 6 pm at Congregation B'nai Tikvah in North Brunswick.

More information will be forthcoming. So **SAVE THE DATE!**

Ahm Yisrael Chai,

## Sheila

Sheila Kaufman  
President, Garden State Region WLCJ  
[gsrpresident24@wlcj.org](mailto:gsrpresident24@wlcj.org)

*"Networking to engage, enrich and empower Conservative Jewish women"*

### 2024-2026 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President - [Sheila Kaufman](#)  
VP, Programming - [Susan Winter](#)  
VP, Sisterhood/Affiliate Support - [Cheryl Sessler](#)  
VP, Torah Fund - [Sindy Manas](#)  
Secretary, Communications - [Traci Sachs](#)  
Secretary, Corresponding - [Susan Sferas](#)  
Secretary, Financial - [Lisa Katz](#)  
Secretary, Recording - [Carol Kotch](#)  
Treasurer - [Donna Franklin](#)  
Parliamentarian - [Dorothy Cohen](#)  
Immediate Past President - [Lynette Seader](#)  
Advisor to the Board - [Meryl Balaban](#)  
Advisor to the Board - [Heddy Belman](#)

MESSAGE FROM SINDY MANAS, GSR TORAH FUND VP

Have you heard about the Torah Fund Legacy Society? It is an opportunity to make a gift beyond our lifetime to Torah Fund. As with donations to the current campaign, all bequests, large and small are welcome. There is no minimum gift required and no expectation of payment while you are living. As a member of the Legacy Society you will receive a beautiful charm that hangs down from your Torah Fund pin. The charm will be moved each year to your current pin. The funds are currently used to sustain the five institutions of higher Jewish learning of the Conservative/Masorti movement worldwide. Additional information can be located at : <https://www.jtsa.edu/hidden-page/torah-fund-legacy-society/>



Our Creating New Spaces Campaign has raised \$ 188,388 to date. There is only \$ 11,612 left to reach our goal of \$ 200,000. This campaign provides funds for the Women's League Institute on Gender Bias and Harassment at the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies and a study space at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Join us in our efforts to remind the world that Am Yisrael Chai (The People of Israel live) by continuing to donate to Torah Fund to support our five Conservative/Masorti institutions of higher education. Your generous donation to Torah Fund helps the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano in Buenos Aires, Schechter Institutes of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem and the new Abraham Joshua Heschel Seminary in Potsdam, Germany.

Donors are encouraged to donate to Torah Fund online as processing is much faster and receipts are given immediately. Please remember to indicate your Sisterhood/Affiliate and its location when you donate.

I would love to attend the Torah Fund Events you are planning. Please send me an invitation.

Am Yisrael Chai,

Sindy Manas  
Torah Fund Vice President Garden State Region  
[Smanas750e@gmail.com](mailto:Smanas750e@gmail.com)  
(908) 208-8230

## GSR PROGRAM DATES 2024-2025

**March 17 at 7:30 pm;** Coffee and Conversation Passover Cooking Program on Zoom

*\*please note this is a date change.*

**June 9 at 6:00 pm;** Women of Achievement Gala Event

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# Passover Cooking with The Chef's Daughter - Yvette Schlussel

**Monday, March 17, 2025**

**7:30 PM Via Zoom**

**Zoom link will be sent out the week of the program.**



Yvette Schlussel, "the Chef's Daughter," has given numerous cooking demonstrations over the years to women's organizations to share her love of delicious, nutritious meals and healthy cooking techniques. Yvette is a member of the East Brunswick Jewish Center Sisterhood.

Yvette will be making Argentine Roast Chicken, Health Salad, Sephardic Macaroons, and Moroccan Muhammar. The recipes will be sent out before the program, so you can get the ingredients if you want to cook along with Yvette.

The Garden State Region is putting together a digital Passover cookbook of your favorite recipes. A digital copy will be sent out after the event to all registrants. Please send your recipes to Traci Sachs at [gsrcommunications@wlcj.org](mailto:gsrcommunications@wlcj.org) by March 14. When you submit the recipes, please include the ingredients and step by step directions. Let us know if it is a vegetarian dish, and if it contains nuts, dairy and/or gluten.

Upon registration, you will receive a link for the ingredients and recipes.

More Info: Susan Winter - [Winter.Susan@gmail.com](mailto:Winter.Susan@gmail.com)  
Sheila Kaufman - [GSRPresident24@wlcj.org](mailto:GSRPresident24@wlcj.org)

Register

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## **Save The Date**

**Garden State Region  
Women of Achievement  
Gala Dinner**

**Monday, June 9, 2025 at 6pm  
Congregation B'nai Tikvah, North Brunswick**

**Am Yisrael Chai**

**SISTERHOOD AFFILIATE PROGRAMS**

# FINDING YOUR VOICE: A WEEKEND WITH PIONEERING CLERGY IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH - SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST**

Join us for an eye-opening weekend with two of Judaism's modern trailblazers, one of the first female and one of the first trans clergy members, as they share their stories and their music, their challenges and triumphs, helping us find our own voices along the way.

*This program is a collaboration of CBI and the CBI Sisterhood*

## Events:

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH @ 6:00PM

- Congregational Shabbat Dinner
- 'Finding *Her* Voice' Cantor Mandell's Story and Journey  
(Services begin @ 7:30PM)

### SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST @ 9:30AM

- 'Finding *Their* Voice' Cantor Jacobson's Story and Journey
- 'Singing a New Song: Gender Minorities in the Cantorate' Panel Discussion & Q+A after Kiddush

### SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST @ 7:00PM

- 'Finding *Your* Voice' Evening Concert with Cantors Jacobson and Mandell
- Featuring Dave Schlossberg on piano  
(Dessert Reception to follow)

## Featuring:



**SUSAN MANDELL**

*One of the first female clergy in Jewish history*



**KALIX JACOBSON**

*One of the first transgender clergy in Jewish history*

**Save Your Spot for each event:**

<https://www.cbinj.org/form/whmshabbat2025>

**Congregation  
Beth Israel**

✉ [cbinj.org](mailto:cbinj.org)

📍 18 Shalom Way, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

☎ (908) 889-1830

Register



# HPCT- CAE Sisterhood's **Cabaret Night**

Saturday, March 1, 2025

8 PM

Tabak Hall

**Come Join us..**

Musicians

Singers

Folk Music

Broadway

Comedians

Dancers

Jazz



as we present  
entertainment  
for the  
whole  
community!

Entrance Fee - \$18 per person by 2/26  
\$20 at the door

Wine, snacks and delectable desserts  
will be served.

For more information and reservations, please contact  
Helene Knee - [kneenote@gmail.com](mailto:kneenote@gmail.com)  
Sandy Gomez - [sandygem61@gmail.com](mailto:sandygem61@gmail.com)

HPCT-CAE, 201 S. 3rd Avenue, Highland Park, NJ 08904



732-545-6482

Contact Helen Knee



**Community Mitzvah Day**  
**Community-wide day of service**  
**Sunday, March 30**

Registration coming soon!

Join us and create positive change in Greater MetroWest NJ!  
Hundreds of people will unite for a full day of volunteer opportunities, putting our Jewish values into action by doing hands-on service and *mitzvot* (good deeds) that make a real impact on the lives of others and our community.  
Stay tuned for more information and registration coming soon! We'll have activities for volunteers of all ages, both in-person and at-home.  
We support and #StandWithIsrael as we continue to build a strong Jewish community here in NJ.

Questions? Contact [mitzvah@jfedgmw.org](mailto:mitzvah@jfedgmw.org).

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*Please send your programs that you would like posted to both [Traci Sachs](#) and [Sheila Kaufman](#) as well as a couple of photos from your event.*

### **Prayer Links and Ways to Donate to Israel**

<https://www.wlcj.org/supporting-israel-in-crisis-was-to-help-and-donate/>

Downloads to recite at home, in your synagogue and at other gatherings:

- [Prayer for the Welfare and the Return of our Kidnapped Brothers and Sisters](#) (Hebrew and English)
- [Updated list of hostages, to be used in prayers for their speedy and safe return](#) (English - the list is continually being updated and includes names of all hostages who we believe to still be alive)
- [Prayer in Times of War - Fall 5784](#) (Hebrew and English)

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### **BRING THEM HOME NOW** **Freedom Tags**

The Hostages and Missing Families Forum is offering a discount for WLCJ members on their freedom tags.



To take advantage of this deal, please use this link:

[Click here to make your purchase](#)  
use Discount code JNOW

Discount will show upon checkout.



Torah Fund supports programs and scholarships at the five Conservative/Masorti global institutes of higher education.



Announcing Our 2024-2025 Campaign Theme:

## Am Yisrael Chai עם ישראל חי *The people of Israel live*

**W**e strive to make a significant impact through scholarships and programs that benefit students at The Jewish Theological Seminary, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, Schechter Institutes, Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano and Zacharias Frankel College.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we help committed Jewish students become the rabbis, cantors, educators, synagogue administrators, social workers, scholars, researchers and lay leaders of tomorrow.

When you support Torah Fund, you help educate students in New York, Los Angeles, Israel, Latin America and Europe—and you align with those who value learning, knowledge and providing the future generation with relevant skills to fortify the Jewish people.

Visit [www.jtsa.edu/torah-fund](http://www.jtsa.edu/torah-fund)

*Am Yisrael Chai* is an expression of Jewish solidarity for the Jewish nation and the continuity of the Jewish people. We help ensure the future of worldwide Jewish communities through our support of the five Conservative/Masorti institutions of higher education.



## PLEASE GIVE TO TORAH FUND!

### TORAH FUND GIVING LEVELS

Keter Kavod \$5,000  
Scholarship Patron \$2,500  
Patron \$1,200  
Associate Patron \$600  
Guardian \$300  
Benefactor \$180

**FOR OUR U.S. SUPPORTERS**, go to [inspired.jtsa.edu/torahfund](http://inspired.jtsa.edu/torahfund)  
Or send your check to the Torah Fund office.

**FOR OUR CANADIAN SUPPORTERS**, go to [torahfundecards.jtsa.edu/canadian](http://torahfundecards.jtsa.edu/canadian)  
Make a donation of any amount with the minimum purchase of one ecard.  
Or send a check to The Jewish Theological Society, 100 Elder Street, North York, Ontario, M3H 5G7.

The dedicated philanthropy of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism, Torah Fund supports scholarships and programs in the worldwide Conservative/Masorti institutes of higher Jewish learning.

**TORAH FUND**  
3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027  
(212) 678-8876  
[www.jtsa.edu/torah-fund](http://www.jtsa.edu/torah-fund) • [torahfund@jtsa.edu](mailto:torahfund@jtsa.edu)

[Click HERE](#) to send a Torah Fund E-Card

[Click HERE](#) to donate to this year's 2024-25 Torah Fund Campaign,  
Am Yisrael Chai

[Click HERE](#) to donate to the *Creating New Spaces Campaign*

[Click HERE](#) to donate to the Torah Fund Legacy Society

[Click HERE](#) for the Torah Fund Chadashot Newsletter

Torah Fund pins will be distributed in September.  
Any questions please e-mail Lisa Paule [lipaule@jtsa.edu](mailto:lipaule@jtsa.edu) or Sherrill Moss-Solomon  
[shsolomon@jtsa.edu](mailto:shsolomon@jtsa.edu) or call the Torah Fund Office 212-678-8027.



TORAH FUND  
WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

Creating New Spaces Campaign: We Need YOU to Make It Happen!

GOAL: \$200,000



We have made great strides toward reaching our \$200,000 goal for the **Creating New Spaces** campaign. If you have already donated to this worthy initiative, *todah rabah* – thank you.

Please consider donating to help us reach our goal. If every Women's League member and affiliate donates \$18 or more to the Creating New Spaces campaign, we can finish this important campaign. We are counting on our dedicated Torah Fund supporters, affiliates and regions for this help.


Together let's complete this special project and add it to our list of noteworthy achievements.

U.S. members, please make your donation to the Creating New Spaces campaign here:  
<https://inspired.jtsa.edu/give/314821/#/donation/checkout>

Canadian members, please make your donation payable to Jewish Theological Society and indicate it is for the Creating New Spaces Campaign.

Thank you for your wonderful support!

A Legacy Gift to  
Torah Fund Helps  
Fortify the Jewish Future



Donating to Torah Fund through your estate will help provide student scholarships and programs at our five institutions of higher learning serving worldwide Jewish communities. Join our group of visionaries who value Jewish education and the future of the Jewish people by becoming a member of our Legacy Society.

Wishing you wellness and long life.

**For more information please contact us at**  
[torahfund@jtsa.edu](mailto:torahfund@jtsa.edu) or call (212) 678-8977.

*Please consult your financial advisor or attorney when making a bequest. Torah Fund does not offer financial, legal or tax advice.*

[jtsa.edu/torah-fund](mailto:jtsa.edu/torah-fund) [torahfund@jtsa.edu](mailto:torahfund@jtsa.edu) Torah Fund supports programs and scholarships at the five Conservative/Masorti global institutes of higher education.

# We are Women's League

Engaging Enriching and Empowering Jewish Women  
Women's League for Conservative Judaism

DONATE TO WLCJ

520 8th Ave., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10018 | Phone: 405-870-1260 [info@wlcj.org](mailto:info@wlcj.org)

WL WEEK

 ONLINE

**Tuesday, Wednesday, and  
Friday at 9 AM PT; 10 AM MT,  
11 AM CT; 12 PM ET**



A virtual service for our WLCJ Sisters to recite Mishaberach, the Prayer for Healing, recite the Psalm of the Day, study and recite Kaddish together.



## Previous WLCJ Programming

Weren't able to join us? Visit  
our [Youtube Channel](#) for more  
videos. View our past  
recordings.

Visit Youtube

Join Zoom Meeting:  
<https://zoom.us/j/630830287>  
Meeting ID: 630 830 287  
Password: 875936

Want to sing, teach, help with technology,  
and more during Daily Psalm Study, and  
Kaddish?

[Sign Up](#)

## Sisters Helping Sisters for the California Fires

Women's League has created this fund to support the Sisterhood of Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center, Pacific Southwest Region, and any other WLCJ Sisterhood Affiliates affected by the 2025 wildfires in California. 100% of the donations are going to emergency relief and will be distributed to and at the direction of our affected Sisterhood Affiliates.



[Donate](#)

## GOOD AND WELFARE - GARDEN STATE REGION

Share your news and nachas with us!

### Birthday Wishes

Wishing all who have February birthdays, Yom Huledet Sameach!

### Refuah Shlemah

- Sindy Manas, GSR Torah Fund VP

### Baruch Dayan HaEmet

- Robert Solomon z"l, husband of Judy Solomon, past Congregation Torat El Sisterhood President and former Garden State Region Board member.
- Sheri Gorelick z"l, beloved sister of Bonnie Panzok, BQLI Ways and Means VP
- Shirley Morrison z"l, past Connecticut Valley Branch President

## DONATIONS

### Make a Donation to the Garden State Region to:

- Honor someone special
- Wish a Mazel Tov to a Bar/Bat Mitzvah family
- Send get well wishes
- Send condolences

Our **Scholarship Fund** helps to send women to WLCJ Convention and Leadership Institute where they learn necessary skills to share with our sisterhoods.

The **Sunshine Fund** supports members of the GSR Board in their time of need.

The **Evelyn Auerbach Education Fund** to sponsor an annual GSR Region educational event.

To make donations, contact Donna Franklin GSR Treasurer, at [gstrtreasurer@wlcj.org](mailto:gstrtreasurer@wlcj.org) and

include which fund(s) to make the donation to.

Or mail your check payable to "GSR-WLCJ" to  
Donna Franklin, 7 Liddy Place, West Caldwell, NJ 07006  
Donations can also be made via Credit Card.

[Donate to GSR using Credit Card](#)

Share your Sisterhood Happenings with us!  
*Look for all the info both here and on our Website & Facebook pages!*



## Follow the Garden State Region!

If you would like to contribute a flyer or picture to upload please forward to  
[Traci Sachs](#) and [Sheila Kaufman](#).

Click [here](#) to connect with the Garden State Region Facebook page.  
Click [here](#) to visit the Garden State Region website.

Make sure to click both **Like** and **Follow**. It's another great way to learn about everything happening in our Region.



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Traci Sachs  
GSR Secretary Communications / Newsletter Editor  
[gsrcommunications@wlcj.org](mailto:gsrcommunications@wlcj.org)

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NJ 07040 US

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